

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 06584 452 2

GOVDOC

BRA

4318

BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
Boston Public Library

<http://www.archive.org/details/jamaicaplain1974bost>

JAMAICA PLAIN

Jamaica Plain today is a community of vitality and diversity—in its housing, its shopping, its recreational opportunities, and particularly its people. It enjoys a rare combination of urban, suburban and even rural qualities that few communities can offer, and its distinctive attributes make it one of Boston's most attractive neighborhoods.

Vitality and diversity have been typical of Jamaica Plain since its beginnings. Settled as part of the Town of Roxbury in 1630, the area, with its fertile farmland, supplied Boston's markets with produce for many years. By the 18th century, Jamaica Plain had become a fashionable summer resort, and by the end of the 19th century it had developed

into a thriving middle-class suburb of Boston, connected to the downtown by streetcars and railroad service.

In spite of its growth as a residential area, Jamaica Plain has retained much of the green space for which it was, and still is, famous. This is mainly due to the creation of Boston's "emerald necklace" park system, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in the late 1800's to provide the city with a continuous chain of parklands. (The community boasts of an additional, unique kind of green space as well: Boston's only working farm.)

Like the rest of Boston's neighborhoods, Jamaica Plain deserves to

be better known. Therefore, the Boston Redevelopment Authority has designed this poster to provide a sampling of the many aspects of the community. We hope the poster will prompt people to visit Jamaica Plain and to enjoy the vitality and character of the neighborhood.

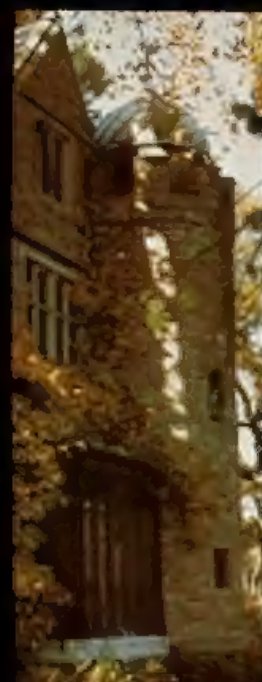
Robert J. Ryan, Director
Boston Redevelopment Authority

GOVDOC
BRA
4318
JPM 05-195



Streets and public transportation provide good connections between Jamaica Plain and the rest of Boston. The MBTA's Green (Arboretum) and Orange Lines, extensive bus routes and a mini-bus all serve the community. Centre Street, Washington Street, the Jamaica Way and the Arborway give automobile access that is convenient and often scenic.

The Southwest Corridor (the area cleared for the Interstate 95 expressway) will be used in the future for commuter rail service. Amtrak and the relocation of the Orange Line from Washington Street. This marks the first time in this country that, in response to community opposition, a decision was made to halt construction of a major expressway and use the land and money for public transportation and community development.



Housing in Jamaica Plain ranges from large Victorian mansions to traditional triple-deckers, from high-rise apartments to modern single-family homes. It includes brick row houses and modest two-family homes, public housing and expensive condominiums. Jamaica Plain offers most of the housing styles found throughout Boston. And much of the housing is moderately priced, giving exceptional value for the money.



Public and private investment in Jamaica Plain has been considerable in recent years. Since 1968, the City of Boston has spent over \$17 million on capital improvements, including three new schools, the renovation of four playgrounds, and the reconstruction of seven miles of streets and sidewalks. More than \$30 million has been committed for future capital expenditures, to pay for construction of a new high school, a new elementary school and a new police station, plus renovation of four more parks and playgrounds.

Private investment in the past seven years totals more than \$25 million and includes a major hospital expansion. A new condominium development, already underway, will result in additional private investment of over \$16 million.

This influx of public and private investment helps maintain the vitality of the neighborhood and insures that Jamaica Plain will be a good place to live in the years to come.



The people of Jamaica Plain, once predominantly Yankee and then Irish, are now of many races and nationalities. The neighborhood is also one of the most economically diverse in Boston, housing working class, middle class, and upper income families. White, Black and Hispanic, old, young and in-between, long-time residents and new arrivals—they're all at home in Jamaica Plain.



CITY OF BOSTON KEVIN H. WHITE, Mayor
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ROBERT J. RYAN, Chairman
JAMES C. COLEBERT, Treasurer
JAMES E. COFIELD, JR., Member
JAMES K. FLAHERTY, Member
JOSEPH J. WALSH, Vice Chairman
ROBERT J. RYAN, Director
KANE SIMONIAN, Secretary



Parks and open space are abundant in Jamaica Plain. Olmsted Park, the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Pond and Franklin Park—all part of Boston's "emerald necklace" of green space—virtually encircle the neighborhood. Smaller parks, playgrounds and tot lots scattered throughout the community provide additional recreational space close to home. In fact, Jamaica Plain enjoys more green space than any other section of Boston.



